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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Franz W. Ulrich et al.

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Title: IMAGING FOR A MACHINE-VISION SYSTEM

(Continuation Under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) of PCT US99/15411, filed July 8, 1999)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified continuation application as follows.

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In the Specification

APR 24 2001

On page 1, after the title, please insert:

Technology Center 2200

-Cross-Reference to Related Application

This application is a continuation under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) of International Patent Application No. PCT/US99/15411, filed July 8, 1999, which claims priority under 119(e) from U.S. Provisional Application SN 60/092,089, filed July 8, 1998, which applications are incorporated herein by reference.--

On page 59, after line 12 and before line 13, please add the following text:

--In summary, the present invention provides a method and apparatus for identifying and handling device tilt in a three-dimensional machine-vision image which is generated from an inspection of a device under test. The device tilt is determined and compensated for, so that various problems previously associated with device tilt are substantially diminished if not entirely eliminated from the device inspection and production line.

It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that the disclosed invention can be modified in numerous ways and can assume many embodiments other than the preferred form specifically set out and described above.

For example, it will be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art that the selection of specific parameters, numbers of samples, tolerances, and so forth is a matter of design and operational optimization and fine tuning and will depend upon the particular environment and